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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/782,068	02/19/2004	Richard Alliot	B-5383 621725-7	4542

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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

VU, PHUONG T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2841

DATE MAILED: 04/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.A

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/782,068	Applicant(s) ALLIROT, RICHARD	
	Examiner Phuong T. Vu	Art Unit 2841	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6,9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,7 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>18 Jan 05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 9 is objected to as it does not further limit the claim(s) from which it depends.
2. Claims 5, 7-8 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot be dependent upon another multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4, 6, 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishioka (US 6,338,636 B2). Regarding claim 1, the reference discloses an I/O expansion system comprising a female connector with housing 1 for operative connection to a baseboard (through terminals 2b) and an add-in card 3 having a male connector 3a on a first edge for receipt by the female connector and a notch 3b for receipt of a retention formation (comprising 8b, 7) of the female connector wherein it further includes a carriage part (comprising 10, 9) movable along the length of the female connector and providing support for the retention formation.

Regarding claim 4, wherein the retention formation is pivotable between an operative position in which the retention formation is within the notch on the add-in card and acts to retain the add-in card in the female connector and an inoperative position in which the retention formation is free of the notch on the add-in card and the add-in card can be removed from the female connector and wherein it further includes an arm 7 connected with the retention formation for pivoting of the retention formation between operative and inoperative positions.

Regarding claim 6, the carriage part includes an upwardly extending arm 9, and the retention formation is an inwardly extending protrusion from the upwardly extending arm and wherein the upwardly extending arm is resiliently deformable and the retention formation has a cam surface (tip of 8b) on its upper side such that when the add-in card is inserted into the female connector the upwardly extending arm bends outwardly to permit the retention formation to ride over a leading edge of the notch and then into the notch to retain the add-in card in the female connector.

Regarding claim 9, the reference discloses female connector as recited in claim 1.

Regarding claim 10, the reference discloses a female connector specifically adapted for both operative connection to a baseboard (through terminals 2b) and receipt of a male edge connector 3a of an add-in card 3 wherein it includes a carriage part 10 movable along the length of the female connector and providing support for a retention formation 8b specifically adapted to engage in use with a formation 3b on the

add-in card to retain the male edge connector of the add-in card in the female connector.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2-3 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art does not disclose a carriage part as recited in claim 2.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments have been considered. The previous rejection has been withdrawn as it cannot be support that Bu discloses a carriage part movable along the length of the female connector. After further consideration by the examiner, it has been determined that although the carriage part is movable and pivotable about a particular portion of a length of the female, it is not movable along the length of the female connector as required by the claim. However, Applicant's arguments with respect to the claim have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Zhang et al. (US 6,379,167B1) discloses an I/O expansion system comprising a female connector with housing 10 for operative connection to a baseboard (through tips 122) and an add-in card 2 having a male connector on a first edge (insertion edge) for receipt by the female connector and a notch (angled edge surface along insertion edge) for receipt of a retention formation (angled edge surface of inner housing) of the female

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connector wherein it further includes a carriage part 136 movable along the length of the female connector. However, the carriage part does not provide support for the retention formation.

Lin (US 6,331,940 B1) discloses an I/O expansion system comprising a female connector 84 with housing for operative connection to a baseboard 90 and an add-in card 80 having a male connector on a first (bottom) edge for receipt by the female connector. A carriage part 20 movable along the length of the a support adjacent the female connector and providing support for the retention formation 28. Although the carriage part and the retention formation move along the support adjacent the female connector and cooperates with the female connector for retaining the add-in card, these components are not provided on the housing of the connector. Furthermore, the card does not have a notch for receipt of a retention formation of the female connector.

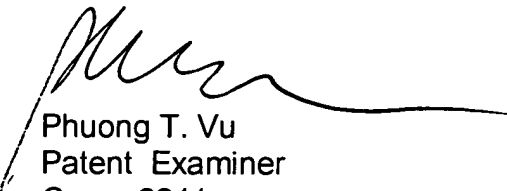
Ehrlich (US 2,957,155) discloses an I/O expansion system comprising a female connector with housing 98 for operative connection to a baseboard for insertion of an add-in card having a male connector on a first (bottom) edge for receipt by the female connector and wherein it further includes a carriage part 14 movable along the length of the female connector and providing support for the retention formation. However the inserted add-in card would not have a notch for receipt of a retention formation of the female connector and there would be advantage or reason to modify the add-in card to provide such a notch.

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong T. Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-2111. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. & Tues., 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kammie Cuneo can be reached on (571) 272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Phuong T. Vu
Patent Examiner
Group 2841